

**English Language 1-2 AP
Summer Reading - 2010/11
11th Grade**

Welcome to English Language 1-2AP and your junior year. We will engage in a survey of 19th and 20th century American writing. You'll be exposed to all genres--novels, stories, plays, essays and poems by some of our country's best authors. We will also be preparing for the AP English Language and Composition test in May. This is optional, but you will be required to do all the preparatory work for the test, regardless of your taking it or not.

We will start off with an American classic that focuses on a dynamic female protagonist—Hester Prynne, then move on to a satirical look at war and the modern era, in *Catch-22*. To get started, please obtain a copy of *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne and *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller. Read both books this summer. You may want to read the Customs House and the introduction in the beginning of *The Scarlet Letter*, or you may overlook now and read later. In the former the author gives some background on the book and some history on writing it.

When you return to school, you'll have a quote test, and quotes will not be recognizable from reading Sparks Notes or Cliff's Notes! You will be at a severe disadvantage if you do not work closely with the books themselves. Expect to show comprehension of plot, character, and themes. You are welcome to buy annotated or critical editions of the two novels, as essays and notes really help in the absence of an instructor.

These books are lengthy; if you wait until the last week of the summer to start reading, you will struggle to get the work done. You can avoid this by pacing yourself. Summer should be a time for fun, so plan ahead and read at a leisurely and consistent pace. We will continue our work on the novels in the fall. Have a great summer!

Novel One: *The Scarlet Letter*

As you read, think about the following with regards to the major characters:

1. **major relationships and conflicts**
2. **external/internal descriptions**--how each character's physical appearance changes throughout the novel. What is the relationship between physical changes and the character's social status or inner psyche? How does the external character mirror, parallel, contradict, or contrast with the internal? How do the external changes echo internal changes?
3. **coping with sin**--how each of the following copes with the burden of guilt and immorality: Hester, Dimmesdale, and Chillingworth. What is at stake for each? How do they each judge themselves at the beginning and at the end? How do the other two judge each at the beginning and at the end?

Novel Two: *Catch-22*

Remember concepts about social satire you've learned and apply them to this novel.

This novel is a satire on the U.S. military and is set in WW II on an Italian island. Most characters are satirical archetypes of military people or vehicles with which to show the absurdities in the military itself. Look for the absurd, the ironic, and the satiric tone. Although the novel discusses a dark topic, it is funny; if you don't laugh while reading this, read it again! You missed the point.

Assignment:

As you read the book, **create a chart with columns, not paragraphs. The column headings should be the following** regarding the major characters: **Name, Physical Traits/Foibles** (or oddities), their ultimate **Fate**, and **Satirizes What Military Type/Military Absurdity**. Including page numbers will be VERY helpful; it's difficult to find details in this book without them.

Enjoy both books and your summer break. Look forward to a challenging, enlightening, and enjoyable junior year.